

Street Address	38-64 High Street, Russell Island
GPS/RPD	Part of Lot 42 on SL7635
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Russell Island State School, Russell Island (AHS, 2017).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Fair
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	20/01/2017		

Historical Context

As the first school to open on the Southern Moreton Bay islands, Russell Island State School was transported from Pine Ridge (near Southport) and erected by C. Boettcher at Black Cat Swamp in the middle of the island. The original building was based upon a standard (Type 2) Works Department provisional school design, 21' by 14', with two verandahs, for a population between 25 to 30, and capped at 40.[1] The land was donated by James Jackson in 1915 and the school officially opened in 1916.[2]

To celebrate the occasion of the opening of the school on 20 January, 1916, guests were brought to the island from Redland Bay via motor boats. Guests included the Redland Bay School Committee and Eileen Willes who was the school’s new teacher. The guest of honour at the school’s opening was politician James Stodart, who went missing at the event and was last seen “paddling his own canoe” on his way to the celebration. Stodart was found later that day and officially announced the opening of the school. The school first allowed pupils in on Monday January 24, 1916.[3]

The school was moved to High Street on the north end of Russell Island in 1927, where most of the islanders resided. This new land was donated by an estate of Mrs Willes and it appears that the original school building was relocated to the site. A school boat was used to carry children from other Southern Moreton Bay Islands, such as Lamb, Macleay, and Karragarra, to Russell Island State School from the 1930s.[4] Macleay Island is the only other school on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands currently.

Physical Description

Russell Island State School has a number of buildings on the site, including the original school building (c. 1916) which now faces High Street. The original building has had various extensions and upgrades since it was constructed, however the original section is readily identifiable as a Type 2 timber framed provisional school structure clad in weatherboards and set high on timber stumps.

Three pair of sashes exist to the northern gable wall (seen from Fern Terrace). These have been modified to house hopper windows with revised hoods, however the proportions of the openings survive. The front and rear verandahs have been enclosed and the central stair has been moved. A 1950s classroom building has been added to the rear elevation and joins directly onto the original building via a hipped roof. A small extension exists to the northern elevation of the 1916 building also, presumably to provide for access to the rear building.

The remainder of the site appears to contain modern built elements which are post 1980.

Statement of Significance

Russell Island State School is significant for the local community as it continues to promote evidence of historic and associative values to the Redlands. The school demonstrates the development of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands during that period and the continuation of the school highlights the community value of the place.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.
Russell Island State School is important in demonstrating the pattern of development in Redlands. As the first state school commenced in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, although relocated in 1927, the school and the original Type 2 building has been in continued use for education for more than 100 years.	
Criteria F	The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period for the region.
The school has a strong association with the Russell Island local community as it was the first school erected in the islands and it contributed greatly to the development of the area.	

Primary Themes	
9.0 Educating Queensland	9.01 Primary schooling

References
<p>[1] Department of Education “Queensland Schools: A Heritage Conservation Study” 1996.</p> <p>[2] Woods and Bagot, Inventory of Heritage Places, “Russell Island State School,” 1995.</p> <p>[3] Myles Sinnamon, “100th Anniversary – Russell Island State School” John Oxley Library Online, 2016.</p> <p>[4] Ibid.</p>



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